MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
23 JANUARY 1963

AM

9:30 I. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

9:35 1. General Services Administration
Public Buildings Service
(Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service; Mr. E.E.Witherell, Chief, Architectural Branch, PBS)

a. Department of Health, Education & Welfare, National Institute of Health:

(1) Cancer Institute Building - Proposed Design
(2) Neuro-Mental Health Building - Proposed Design

b. Post Office Department Building, Federal Triangle, Additional Parking in North and South Courts and 12th St. Semi-circle

10:00 2. District of Columbia Government

a. Department of Licenses and Inspections
(Dr.Stuart Portner, Chief of Administration, Mr. Earl Brooks, Chief, Management & Personnel, Pan American Health Organization; Mr. Louis Justement, architect)

Pan American Health Organization Building, Square 59, Virginia Avenue, 22d and 23d Sts., N.W. - Further development of design

10:15 b. Department of Highways and Traffic
(Mr. G.I.Sawyer, Deputy Director for Engineering Design and Research, Mr. E.D.Burke, Engineer of Design, Department of Highways & Traffic; Mr. John Baylor, landscape architect)

Tree Rehabilitation Program for Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. from 1st to 17th Sts., N.W.

10:30 c. Department of Buildings & Grounds

(1) Mildred Green Elementary School, 15th St. & Mississippi Avenue, S.E. - Proposed Design
(Mr. G.A.Purcell, Liaison Officer, Department of Bldgs. & Grounds; Mr. J.A.MacLane, architect of MacLane & Chewning)

(2) Daniel C. Roper Junior High School, 48th & Meade Sts., N.E.-Proposed Design
(Mr. Purcell;Mr. Branch D. Elam, architect of Justement, Elam, Callmer & Kidd)

(3) Public Library, 3d & K Sts., S.W. - Proposed Design
(Mr. Purcell; Mr. A.R.Clas, architect of Clas & Riggs)

(4) Fire Station, Engine Company No. 18, 414-418 8th St,, S.E. - Proposed Design
(Mr. Purcell; Mr. Albert I. Cassell, architect)

11:15 3. District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency

Columbia Plaza Urban Renewal Project
(Mr. Stanley Sherman, RLA; Mr. Arthur H. Keyes, architect of Keyes, Lethbridge & Condon)

11:45 4. Smithsonian Institution & D.C.Department of Buildings & Grounds
(Dr. Leonard Carmichael, Secretary; Mr. James Bradley, Assistant Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Dr. Theodore Reed, Director, National Zoological Park; Mr. G.A.Purcell, Liaison Officer, Mr. Robert D. Engle, Supervisory Construction Management Engineer (Buildings), D.C. Department of Buildings and Grounds; Mr. Richard Dimon, architect of Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall)

Redevelopment of National Zoological Park

12:15 5. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
(Mr. Conrad Wirth, Director, National Park Service; Mr. T. Sutton Jett, Regional Director, National Capital Region; Mr. Robert Horne, Associate Regional Director, National Capital Region)

a. Kenilworth Gardens - Proposed Design of Greenhouses

b. Washington Circle, 23d St. & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. - Proposed Development Plan

c. Ward Circle, Massachusetts & Nebraska Avenues, N.W. - Proposed Development Plan

d. Reservation 700, Wisconsin & Massachusetts Avenues, N.W. - Park Improvement Plan

e. Reservation 309C, 16th & Harvard Sts., N.W. - Park Improvement Plan

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
JANUARY 23, 1963

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., with David E. Finley, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: Members: David E. Finley
Douglas W. Orr
William G. Perry
Hideo Sasaki
Ralph Walker

Staff: L.R.Wilson, Executive Sec'y
C.H.Atherton, Asst. Sec'y
C.L.Martin, Counsel
Susan E.Bennett, Admin.Asst.
Myra Younker, Editor

Recorder: Fred Cohen, Hoover Reporting Service, Inc.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. General Services Administration

Public Buildings Service

a. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, National Institute of Health

(1) Cancer Institute Building - Proposed Design

(2) Neuro-Mental Health Building - Proposed Design

Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service, introduced Mr. Robert Hastings and Mr. Sigmund Blum and Mr. James Livingston, architects, of Smith, Hinchman and Gyrllys, Associates, who described the function and design of the proposed buildings, and the site development plan with drawings and a large scale model.

In answer to the Commission's question it was explained that a five-level detached parking building to house 1000 automobiles was contemplated to serve the new buildings, but that no funds for this structure had been made available at the present time.

The members expressed some concern that the entrances to the building were disproportionately small and modest in comparison with the size of the buildings and the large plaza adjoining them. They also believed that larger lobbies near the entrance should be provided.

After further discussion of the internal arrangement of the buildings, the Commission approved the design as presented.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Administrator, General Services Administration, setting forth the Commission's views.

EXHIBIT A

B. Post Office Department Building, Federal Triangle - Additional Parking Facilities in North and South Courts and 12th Street Hemicycle

Mr. J. M. Speigel, Modernization Coordinator, Office of the Deputy Postmaster General, described in detail the proposal to provide additional parking spaces. He indicated that since 1956 the number of employees working in the Post Office Building had increased by 20 per cent and that a substantial increase would occur in the present and next fiscal years. For this reason, he said, there is and will continue to be a demand for parking facilities around the building.

Mr. Speigel indicated that the Post Office Department was requesting the Commission's approval of the proposed plan only as a temporary measure until such time as the General Services Administration's master plan for parking in the Federal Triangle had been put into effect. Once the plan is in operation parking in the courts and hemicycles would be abandoned and the landscaping restored. Mr. Snyder indicated that all previous efforts to obtain funds from Congress to accomplish the General Services parking plan had been unsuccessful in the past and that he could not be optimistic about its success in the future.

The members learned from Mr. Speigel that the 77 spaces proposed to be gained would not cover the need for parking spaces.

The Commission concluded, after balancing the loss of all remnents of the original landscaping around the post Office building against the gain of only a partial solution of the parking problem, that it should not recommend the proposed plan. It was agreed that the Commission should urge that immediate action be taken toward a permanent solution to the parking situation in the Federal Triangle such as the plan proposed by the General Services Administration in 1962.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Administrator of General Services Administration setting forth the Commission's views.

EXHIBIT B

2. District of Columbia Government

a. Department of Licenses and Inspections

Pan American Health Organization, Square 59, Virginia Avenue, 22d and 23 Streets, N.W. - Further Development of Design

Mr. Louis Justement, architect of the firm of Justement, Elam, Callmer,

and Kidd, explained that at its meeting on September 19, 1962 the Commission had approved a revision of the design to include the addition of balconies at the second floor level of the office tower to emphasize the important offices to be located there; that there was no need of balconies on the building from a functional point of view and that upon further consideration the architects had prepared an alternate scheme. Mr. Justement then presented drawings and a rendering of this scheme wherein black granite spandrel were shown at the second story level in place of the balconies and bearing bronze seals of the various member countries of the Pan American Health Organization with the name of the country incised below them. This device would be utilized all the way around the building. The Commission thought the proposal would be an attrative and tasteful addition to the appearance of the building and voted to approve it.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT C

b. Department of Buildings and Grounds

(1) Mildred Green Elementary School, 15th and Mississippi Avenue, S.E. - Proposed Design

Mr. G. A. Purcell, Liaison Officer, Department of Buildings and Grounds introduced Mr. J. A. MacLane, architect of MacLane and Chewning, who presented a preliminary design for the building.

Mr. MacLane explained the function and arrangement of the proposed building. In the course of his explanation he stated that the school was designed for a future addition of a third floor which would be added on the two wings of the building. Mr. Purcell indicated that the addition of the third floor was quite imminent because of the heavy population of the area.

The members were of the opinion that, if the school was to have a third floor in the near future, it should be studied as a three-story building now. They pointed out that in their experience the addition of floors to an existing building was an extremely costly and wasteful process. They recommended that the architect restudy the design and submit new drawings showing a three-story building. They also suggested that the basic layout of the building be restudied in another form.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Engineer Commissioner for the District of Columbia setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT D

(2) Daniel C. Roper Junior High School, 48th and Meade Streets, N.W. - Proposed Design

Mr. Branch D. Elam, architect of the firm of Justement, Elam, Callmer and Kidd, presented drawings and renderings showing a preliminary design for the building.

The design was of a three story classroom wing constructed around an open courtyard, and a separate three-story cafeteria-auditorium and gymnasium wing joined to the classroom wing by a lobby. The building would be constructed of reinforced concrete faced with red brick.

The members liked the massing and general treatment of the elevation and voted to approve the design.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Engineer Commissioner for the District of Columbia setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT E

(3) Public Library, 3d and K Streets, S.W. - Proposed Design

Mr. A. R. Clas, architect of Clas and Riggs, presented a preliminary design for the building and explained the function of the parts of the building. He pointed out that the strip windows had been established for size and location by the fact that stacks would be plaed underneath the windows on both the first and second floors. Mr. Purcell pointed out that the building was being designed for a future third floor.

The members were of the opinion that arrangement of stacks under strip windows was detrimental to the building because it prevented the utilization of more areas of glass and light in the reading rooms. Moreover they believed this to be an outmoded arrangement. There was a general discussion of methods which could be utilized to introduce greater flexibility into the design.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Engineer Commissioner for the District of Columbia setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT F

(4) Fire Station, Engine Company No. 18,414-418 8th Street, S.E. Proposed Design

Mr. Albert I. Cassell, architect, presented drawings and an elevation rendering of a proposed design for the two-story building.

Mr. Cassell explained that the material of construction was Occoquan brick in the end piers and reinforced concrete on the facing. He pointed out that Occoquan brick was manufactured by penal institutions in the District of Columbia and it was a policy of the District of Columbia to assist the penal institutions by using it in public buildings. Mr. Cassell stated that the brick was a dull color and he would prefer another color.

The Commission had no objections to the design and voted to approve it, provided only one material was used in the front elevation.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Engineer Commissioner for the District of Columbia setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT G

3. District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency

Columbia Plaza Urban Renewal Project

The Commission met with representatives of the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency, the National Capital Planning Commission staff, and Mr. Arthur H. Keyes, architect of Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon, to discuss a development plan for the Columbia Plaza Urban Renewal Project.

Mr. Morton Hoppenfeld, civic planner of the National Capital Planning Commission staff, explained the principles of the proposed urban renewal plan and design requirements. He pointed out that the Planning Commission had determined that the Foggy Bottom area should be developed primarily as a residential area with limited commercial facilities, that off-street parking facilities were in great demand in the area and that the project should fulfill this need as much as possible. In accordance with these principles the urban renewal program provided for 1200 dwelling units, 30,000 square feet of commercial shopping space, and a 1500 underground parking space.

Mr. Keyes then pointed out on a scale model and drawings the various features of the proposed project which his firm had prepared in accordance with the urban renewal project.

In their discussion the members questioned Mr. Keyes about the design of an elevator penthouse on the hotel structure, which was shown only in block form on the model and drawings. Mr. Keyes explained that the architectural details of the hotel were still being studied and that future preliminary designs of the structure would be submitted to the Commission for its recommendation.

The Commission voted to approve the proposed project in principle subject to further review of the details of the design.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the District Commissioners setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT H

4. Smithsonian Institution and D. C. Department of Buildings and Grounds

Redevelopment of National Zoological Park - Bird House and Great Flight Cage

The Commission met with Doctor Leonard Carmichael, Secretary, Mr. James Bradley, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Theodore Reed, Director of the National Zoological Park, Mr. G. A. Purcell, Liaison Officer and Mr. Robert D. Engle, Supervisory Construction Engineer of the

D.C. Department of Buildings and Grounds, and Mr. Richard Dimon, architect of Daniel, Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall, to consider proposed plans for remodeling the existing Bird House and a new Flight Cage at the National Zoological Park.

In their introductory remarks Dr. Carmichael and Mr. Bradley gave a brief summary of the history of the Zoological Park and its legal relationship with the District of Columbia. Mr. Bradley summarized the nature of the first year capital improvements which include the relocation of the north-south and east-west roads in the Zoo, renovation of the existing 1928 Bird House, and construction of a new Flight Cage. He then introduced Mr. Dimon, architect, to explain the design of the two latter projects.

Mr. Dimon described the proposed renovations to the 1928 Bird House with drawings and renderings. He then gave a detailed analysis of the construction features of the Flight Cage, which was designed to permit the birds a maximum amount of freedom of movement with a minimum amount of obstruction. He pointed out the absence of rectangular angles or structural members in the interior of the cage which would impede observation of the birds by visitors entering the cage.

The Commission voted to approve the design of the Flight Cage and of proposed renovations to the Bird House. The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT I

5. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region

a. Kenilworth Gardens - Proposed Design of Greenhouses

Mr. Robert Horne, Associate Regional Director, Mr. Charles W. Lessig, Chief Architect, and Mr. Robert W. Andrews, Chief Landscape Architect, of the National Capital Region Office, presented the proposed design of greenhouses and an attached utility building to be located on the grounds of the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on the east bank of the Anacostia River.

The Commission expressed no objection to the design of the greenhouses, and recommended that the front elevation of the utility building or headhouse, be simplified by reducing the number of architectural elements shown in the design.

b. Washington Circle, 23d and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. - Proposed Development Plan

Mr. Horne presented a proposed development plan for the Circle which the Commission had reviewed on the previous day. Mr. Sasaki outlined the members' criticism that the proposed system of concentric rings of planting and walkways chopped up the circle into too many segments. He suggested that a walk be constructed around the perimeter of the circle and a hedge planted to separate the sitting area from

the vehicular traffic. He also suggested that stone be substituted for the brick paving shown in the drawings.

c. Ward Circle, Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, N.W.- Proposed Development Plan

Mr. Horne presented a planting scheme for Ward Circle, which is at present planted only in grass.

Mr. Sasaki stated that because of the nature of the Circle, which is surrounded by heavy traffic and is not intended to be a park such as Washington Circle, the Commission preferred that no trees be planted there. Instead, the Commission recommended that the area be planted in some sort of ground cover or low hedging to discourage pedestrian traffic.

d. Reservation 700, Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues, N.W. - Park Improvement plan

Mr. Horne explained that the plan to improve the site near the intersection of Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues was for the purpose of providing a park for residents in the densely populated area.

The members stated that they would prefer to see the area treated simply as a strolling area with only a few trees and plants and benches, rather than with the elaborate scheme of free-form walks and outdoor sculpture proposed.

Mr. Horne stated that through an oversight the plan had not been referred to the Commission at an earlier date and that contracts had already been signed for the project. The members thought that the plan could nevertheless be simplified by eliminating the outdoor sculpture and substitution of stone paving for the tinted concrete shown in the drawings.

e. Reservation 309C, 16th and Harvard Streets, N.W. - Park Improvement Plan

The members expressed their approval of the general arrangement of the plan, and in particular noted the rearrangement of the benches around the park facing away from the traffic. They suggested that two planting beds in the plan should be eliminated and additional planting added.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Director of the National Park Service giving the Commission's views on each of the projects reviewed. EXHIBITS J & K

6. The White House - Tour of Inspection

Upon completion of the discussion of the items of business on the

agenda, the members proceeded to The White House where they were met by Mr. Bernard West, Chief Usher, who conducted them through the recently redecorated rooms on the first floor, and the Library, Diplomatic Reception Room and China Room on the lower level.

The members asked the Chairman to write a letter to Mrs. Kennedy expressing their approval. EXHIBIT L

Thereupon, at 1:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Martin

C. L. Martin
Counsel

5 February 1963

Dear Mr. Boutin:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 23rd, considered the preliminary designs for two laboratory buildings, the Neuro Mental Health Building and the National Cancer Institute Building to be located on the grounds of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. The designs for the buildings were prepared by the architectural firm of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, Associates, of Detroit, Michigan, and were presented by their representatives, Mr. James Livingston and Mr. Robert F. Hastings. Mr. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service, represented the General Services Administration.

After carefully considering drawings and scale models showing the relationship of the buildings to the site, the Commission of Fine Arts approved the two buildings as presented. The action was taken with reluctance, however, in two regards; first, the lack of expression of the entrance in buildings of such an extensive size and occupancy; second, the complete lack of parking facilities within the buildings. We understand that some seven hundred personnel are scheduled to work in each building. It would be reasonable to assume, therefore, that provision of space for at least 300 to 400 cars would result in large areas of paving and considerably detract from the surroundings, and offset any effort to achieve an attractive design for the building.

The Commission hoped that some means could be found to consolidate parking within each building, or if not feasible, then in separate structures.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Honorable Bernard L. Boutin
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D.C.

David E. Finley, Chairman

cc- Director, Design Division
Public Buildings Service, GSA

EXHIBIT A

4 February 1963

Dear Mr. Boutin:

I am writing at the request of the Public Buildings Service for the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts regarding a proposal to provide additional outdoor parking spaces in the hemicycle at the twelfth street entrance of the Post Office Department in the Federal Triangle; and also in the north and south courtyards of that building.

The members of the Commission have carefully studied the plans submitted and the members personally inspected the sites on January 22nd. Mr. J.M. Speigel met with the Commission on January 23rd and outlined the proposal in detail. We understand, if the plans are carried out, 32 additional parking spaces would be provided at the twelfth street entrance and 45 parking spaces in the north and south courtyards, making a total of 77 new spaces.

The Commission of Fine Arts is, of course, fully aware of the increasing need for parking facilities in this area, as in practically every other employment center in Washington. The Commission has on two previous occasions recommended against similar proposals to sacrifice landscaped areas for parking spaces; and it was with the greatest reluctance that the Commission approved the plan in 1956 to provide parking spaces in the hemicycle facing the Great Plaza on the west of the Post Office building and the construction of a narrow roadway at the edge of the hemicycle on twelfth street for the use of the Postmaster General. As in the case of the present proposals, those arrangements were presented as temporary measures pending the development of permanent parking facilities. The Commission, therefore, cannot recommend approval of the plan for additional parking spaces in the twelfth street hemicycle.

The Commission feels strongly that the time has come to make a permanent solution of the parking problem in this area and recommends against further intrusion of parking facilities in the proposed locations at the east entrance of the Post Office Department. The present hemicycle is one of the few places in the immediate vicinity that retains any of the landscape elements as was originally intended when the building was erected. The grass has disappeared at the west hemicycle; the Great Plaza has been desecrated by commercial parking for many years. In the opinion of the Commission, this is one of the most unfortunate features of the Washington landscape.

EXHIBIT B

The Commission of Fine Arts favors a program for the development of an overall solution of the parking problem such as that prepared by the General Services Administration in 1962, and hope that steps can be taken to implement the program at the earliest possible time. The establishment of permanent underground facilities to replace the surface parking now on the Great Plaza is, in the opinion of the Commission, of the highest priority and should be the first project to be undertaken.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Bernard L. Boutin
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D.C.

cc- Director, Design Division
PBS, GSA

5 February 1963

Dear Dr. Fortner:

I am writing to confirm the favorable action taken by the Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 23rd, regarding changes to the preliminary design of the Pan American Health Organization Building.

The members of the Commission thought the omission of the metal balconies and the addition of the granite and bronze plaques bearing the name and official seals of the member countries on the second story spandrels would help to define the special functions located on that floor, and also give the elevations of the building added interest.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Dr. Stuart Fortner
Chief of Administration
Pan American Health Organization
1501 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D.C.

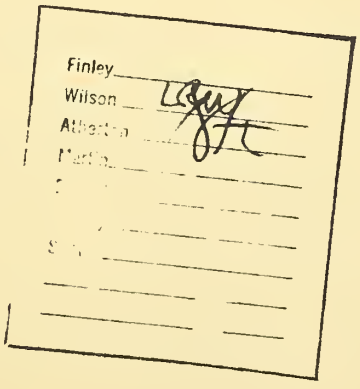

EXHIBIT C

31 January 1963

Dear General Clarke:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 23, considered a preliminary design for the proposed Mildred Green Elementary School, to be located on an undeveloped site bounded by extensions of 15th Street and Mississippi Avenue, Southeast. Mr. G. A. Purcell, Liaison Officer, D. C. Department of Buildings and Grounds, and Mr. J. A. MacLane, of the architectural firm of MacLane and Chewning, presented the plans.

The Commission thought that the approach to the architectural solution was generally unsatisfactory. The members felt that the rather constricted plan was detrimental to achieving an architectural character of any distinction, and the elevation drawings submitted confirmed this view. The treatment of the entranceway at the intersection of the two flanking wings was over-elaborate. The splayed form of the two wings appeared unresolved with little relation to either the topography of the site or the street pattern.

Also, the intention to add later another story to the building as presently designed would produce a most unsatisfactory result. It would be far better, in the opinion of the Commission, to design the building as a whole, and, if at all possible construct it in its entirety. Not only would the appearance be more satisfactory, but it would be more economical as regards the cost of the building.

The Commission recommended that a completely new approach be taken in the design of the building, with a view toward simplifying the placement and the form of the building, as well as the architectural treatment of the building as ultimately to be constructed.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Brigadier General F. J. Clarke
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D.C.

Copy to: Mr. J.A.Blamer, Director
D.C. Department of Bldgs & Grounds

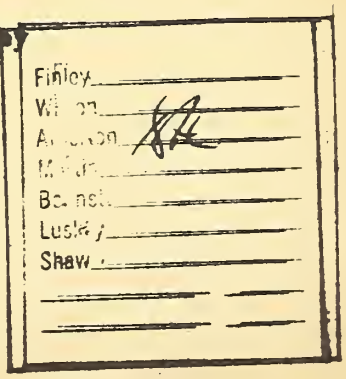

EXHIBIT D

30 January 1963

Dear General Clarke:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 23, considered a preliminary design for the proposed Daniel C. Roper Junior High School, to be located at 48th and Meade Streets, N.E. Mr. C. A. Purcell, Liaison Officer of the Department of Buildings and Grounds, and Mr. Branch Elam, of the architectural firm of Justement, Elam, Callmer and Kidd, presented the plans.

The general arrangement of buildings on the site and the relationship of functions within the building were well-handled, in the Commission's opinion. The massing and treatment of the elevations also showed careful study and, with the proper selection of colors for the brick and architectural trim, the finished building should be an attractive and worthy addition to the school system.

The members of the Commission hope that final drawings can be developed as closely as possible to the preliminary design, including the absence of mechanical fixtures on the roof. As these structures probably cannot be avoided altogether, however, it is recommended that they be treated insofar as possible as part of the over-all design.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Brigadier General T. J. Clarke
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D.C.

Copy to: Mr. Blaser, Director,
D.C. Department of Buildings
& Grounds

EXHIBIT E

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30 January 1963

Dear General Clarke:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 23, considered a design for a proposed fire station to house Engine Company No. 18, at 414 - 418 8th Street, S.E. Mr. G. A. Purcell, Liaison Officer of the Department of Buildings and Grounds, and Mr. Albert I. Cassells, architect, presented the plans.

The members of the Commission found the design to be a straight-forward solution to the program. In order to unify the street facade they recommended that only one wall material be used, the choice of brick or stone being left to the architect.

The Commission approved the design as presented, but requested a sketch of the revised elevation to be submitted for its records.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Brigadier General F. J. Clarke
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D.C.

Copy to: Mr. J.A.Glasser, Director
D.C.Department of
Buildings and Grounds

EXHIBIT G

30 January 1963

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 23, considered the proposed plan and the design of the Columbia Plaza Urban Renewal Project at 23-25th Street, "E" Street and Virginia Avenue, N.W. Mr. Daniel Driver, District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency, Mr. Arthur Keyes, of the architectural firm of Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon, and Mr. Morton Hoppenfeld of the staff of the National Capital Planning Commission presented the plans.

A large scale model (1"=20') of the project was used to describe the general features of the plan; in particular, the massing and heights of the six buildings, service access and parking, pedestrian access, and landscape treatment. In general, the members of the Commission thought that the plan functioned well; and that the overall composition of the various buildings was, in itself, well-handled. As no drawings showing the architectural details, and no materials and colors were presented, the Commission, of course, must reserve final judgement until such time as these features may be studied in more detail. This reservation is particularly applicable to the design of the 130' high hotel structure, where some concern was expressed by the members of the Commission over the proposed termination of the building at the cornice line, and also over the appearance of the elevator penthouse on the roof.

Mr. Keyes indicated that studies were still being developed in this respect and would be furnished the Commission upon their completion.

Although the matter of signs was not discussed at the meeting, the Commission had previously considered some of the problems that might arise in the location and design of proper identifications for the commercial functions. The Commission recommended that this area of the design be carefully considered in order to provide continuity in appearance between adjoining shops, etc.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Phil A. Doyle
Executive Director
District of Columbia Redevelopment
Land Agency
Washington 6, D.C.

EXHIBIT H'

24 January 1963

Dear General Clarke:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 23, conferred with representatives of the National Capital Planning Commission and the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency regarding the revised urban renewal plan for the Columbia Plaza Urban Renewal project.

The Commission, after studying a detailed scale model of the project, approved the proposed modifications relative to the building heights and setback requirements.

In the course of reviewing other provisions in the plan, however, the members noted that sign regulations to be administered by the Redevelopment Land Agency are less restrictive than those specified in the District of Columbia Building Code and applicable to the Shipstead-Luce Area.

The Commission sees a possible conflict in that an applicant for a sign might gain the approval of the Redevelopment Land Agency only to be turned down by the District of Columbia Government or the Commission of Fine Arts. The overlapping review by two agencies concerning the same matter could lead to delay and frustration on the part of the applicant, and also to possible misunderstanding on the part of the two agencies. As the Commission of Fine Arts already has authority to advise the District of Columbia Government on the design and location of signs within the Shipstead-Luce Area the members recommended that review of signs by the Redevelopment Land Agency not be required. It should also be pointed out that reviewing authority by the Redevelopment Land Agency would, in any event, lapse after a certain number of years.

While the number of signs in the Columbia Plaza project will most likely be small, other areas such as the southwest waterfront redevelopment will probably have an extensive number of applications on a continuing basis. A duplication of the reviewing process in every instance would seem to be a waste of public time and money, as well as an unnecessary inconvenience to the private applicants.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Brigadier General F.J.Clarke
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D.C.

EXHIBIT M 2

1 February 1963

Dear Doctor Carmichael:

I am writing to confirm the favorable action taken by the Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 23, in regard to the first phase of the construction program for the Redevelopment of the National Zoological Park, which included designs for remodeling the existing Bird House; the construction of new flight cages; and the relocation of the existing East-West roadway. We were glad to meet with you and Doctor Bradley of the Smithsonian and to see the plans which were presented by Mr. Richard Dixon of the firm of Daniel, Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall, architects for the project.

The members of the Commission thought that the studies showed both care and imagination in the development of the designs. These qualities were particularly evident in the large flight cage, where visitors would be able to observe many of the species at close range without interference from visual barriers. If the same attention is shown in developing solutions of a similar quality throughout the remaining displays, the completed design should be of a very high standard.

The Commission was glad to see the contract drawings for this project, but hopes that the District Department of Buildings and Grounds will bring in further designs at an earlier stage. It is difficult to make suggestions regarding the design once construction bids have been invited on finished drawings.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Doctor Leonard Carmichael
Secretary
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C.

Copy to: Brigadier General F.J.Clarke
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia

EXHIBIT I

31 January 1963

Dear Mr. Wirth:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 23, considered a proposed design for two additional greenhouses to be located at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, in Northeast Washington on the east bank of the Anacostia River. Mr. Robert Horne, Associate Regional Director, National Capital Region, presented the design.

The Commission was glad to see that steps were being taken to develop the facilities of the Aquatic Gardens. The members had no objection to the general plan and design of the greenhouses as presented, but recommended that the architectural treatment of the small connecting utility building be simplified to conform, not contrast with, the character of other garden type structures. Even small unimportant buildings like this one can be made attractive and appropriate additions to the park-like setting of the Aquatic Gardens.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Conrad Wirth
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D.C.

EXHIBIT J

Dear Mr. Hirth:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 17, 1952, considered a proposed design for two sculptural compositions to be placed at the Memorial Circle, in Potomac Park, in the west grounds of the Lincoln Memorial. Mr. Aleksa Stojan, executive director, National Capital Parks, appeared before the Commission.

The Commission was glad to see that plans were being made for moving the facilities of the Lincoln Museum. The removal may be objectionable to the general plan for [illegible] but it was recommended that the architectural treatment of the small, temporary building be simplified to conform with the character of other nearby Park buildings like this one so as more effectively to [illegible] the park-like setting of the Lincoln Memorial.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gerald M. Kaufman
Chairman

Honorable Conrad Wirth
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D.C.

1 February 1963

Dear Mr. Wirth:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 23, considered preliminary designs for proposed landscape treatments to the following Washington Parks:

U.S.Reservation 309C, Columbia Road and 16th Street, N.W.

U.S.Reservation 572, Ward Circle, Massachusetts & Nebraska Avenues, N.W.

U.S.Reservation 26, Washington Circle, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania Avenues, N.W.

U.S.Reservation 700, Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues, N.W.

Mr. Robert Horne, Associate Regional Director, National Capital Region, Mr. Robert Andrews, Chief Landscape Architect, and Mr. Charles Lessig, Chief Architect, National Capital Region presented the drawings.

The members of the Commission reviewed each design at its site on January 22, in order to learn the degree of traffic and the probable use resulting from the character of the surrounding neighborhood. Recommendations on each design follow:

Reservation 309C

The Commission considered the proposed design an improvement over the existing arrangement which takes little advantage of the interior space of the park and exposes seating areas directly to the automobile traffic. The design was approved with the suggestion that some additional planting be used along the sidewalks in order to reinforce the feeling of separation between the seating areas and the adjoining streets. It was also recommended that the formal planting beds be eliminated, substituting additional shrubs informally grouped.

Reservation 572, Ward Circle

The Commission believed that the existing trees around the perimeter of Ward Circle give the central space adequate definition at the present

EXHIBIT K.

time; and that the open quality of the circle should not be disrupted by adding trees or shrubs within the area bounded by the outer roadways. If it is necessary, pedestrians could be discouraged from crossing through the heavy traffic to the center island by planting these spaces with some form of ground cover or shrub such as the planting around the Bolivar statue at Virginia Avenue and "C" Street, N.W.

Reservation 26, Washington Circle

The basic concept of a series of concentric areas of planting and paving is appropriate to the design of the circle but is confused by the inclusion of too many fragmented elements and should be simplified. Working from the outside of the circle toward the center, the Commission recommended a hedge about 3 feet high to provide a buffer between the seating area and the roadway. The planting beds in the middle of the paved areas should be eliminated, and also the small coves with benches around the inner perimeter. The members recommended grass or stone rather than flowering shrubs around the base of the statue, and a larger area of surrounding pavement which should be stone throughout. Finally, it was hoped that the existing trees would remain, at least until the other planting has had an opportunity to develop.

Reservation 700

The Commission would have preferred to see a more simple treatment of the area with, perhaps, no more than the addition of a few flowering trees. However, Mr. Horne indicated that, through an oversight, the project had not been submitted to the Commission in the preliminary stage and was already under contract. The Commission felt that it was not too late to recommend two changes which the members believed would improve the design and could still be incorporated within the existing contract: One, that natural paving of a random pattern be substituted for the rectangular panels of tinted concrete; and two, that the "abstract feature" and feather stone elements be eliminated. Both changes are simple and should tend to reinforce the general character of the design.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Conrad Wirth
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D.C.

23 January 1963

Dear Mrs. Kennedy:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts were glad to accept your kind invitation to visit The White House at the conclusion of their monthly meeting today.

They were greatly interested in seeing the Blue Room and the Green Room and were delighted with the changes that have been made in the wall hangings and furnishings. They thought the two rooms very handsome and harmonious.

They also visited again the East Room, the State Dining Room, and the family Dining Room on the first floor, and the Oval Room and the Library on the ground floor. They were very pleased, indeed, with the appearance of all these rooms, and asked me to send their congratulations to you and also to the Committee on The White House. I, as you know, fully agree with these sentiments and take great pride in what has been accomplished in The White House by your own efforts and by those of the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mrs. Kennedy
The White House
Washington

LGW